

To: Jones, Enesta[Jones.Enesta@epa.gov]
From: Hull, George
Sent: Sat 8/15/2015 3:20:15 PM
Subject: Fwd: R9 Data for 8/9/15 and message

FYI- Data and description still being reviewed.

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: EOC Public Information <EOC_Public_Information@epa.gov>
Date: August 15, 2015 at 10:24:41 AM EDT
To: "Purchia, Liz" <Purchia.Liz@epa.gov>
Cc: "Harrison, Melissa" <Harrison.Melissa@epa.gov>, "Hull, George" <Hull.George@epa.gov>
Subject: Re: R9 Data for 8/9/15 and message

we are reviewing now, though some additional data issues have been flagged on our end. Will keep you posted.

From: Purchia, Liz
Sent: Saturday, August 15, 2015 9:11 AM
To: EOC Public Information
Cc: Harrison, Melissa; Hull, George
Subject: Fw: R9 Data for 8/9/15 and message

John, Jennifer - This has been sent to the EOC data side and will also need comms review. Please let us know when it's approved.

Thanks.

From: Wagner, Christine
Sent: Friday, August 14, 2015 11:34 PM
To: Smith, Terry; Tulis, Dana
Cc: Webster, Susan; EOC Environmental Unit; Tenley, Clancy; Harrison, Melissa; Ruhl, Christopher
Subject: R9 Data for 8/9/15 and message

Terry and Dana

This is the R9 data for 8/9/15. This has not yet been approved by HQ, but has been approved through the Regional EOC.

Below is the message to accompany this data:

Shiprock, New Mexico - August 14, 2015: Today, EPA has released additional water quality data from Aug. 7 to Aug. 9, 2015 on the San Juan River between Farmington and Shiprock, New Mexico. The August 7 data was collected for baseline purposes to understand river conditions at the Hogback monitoring location, prior to the impact of the upstream contaminants from the Gold King Mine release.

To assess the impacts of the release at the Gold King Mine, water quality samples were collected at four locations for 24 metals. Each surface water sample was analyzed for metals including arsenic, cadmium, lead, mercury, aluminum, cobalt and others.

The validated results indicate the EPA risk-screening level of recreational use is being met for all metals for the length of the river between Farmington and Shiprock, with the exception of lead on August 8. However, lead dropped below risk-screening levels on August 9.

Due to the highly variable conditions typical of this segment of the river, additional testing will be conducted, and we will work closely with the Navajo Nation EPA on assessing drinking water, agriculture, livestock, and other critical water needs.

Upon HQ approval, this is ready to post.

Thank you

Chris

From: Tenley, Clancy
Sent: Friday, August 14, 2015 11:19 PM
To: Wagner, Christine
Subject: Fw: Revised statement

From: Hiatt, Gerald
Sent: Friday, August 14, 2015 8:18 PM
To: Blumenfeld, Jared; Tenley, Clancy
Cc: Harrison, Melissa; Strauss, Alexis; Kao, Jessica; Manzanilla, Enrique; Allen, HarryL; Calanog, Steve; Wise, Robert
Subject: Re: Revised statement

FWIW, attached please find the 8/9 data spreadsheet I have been using. In contrast to the 8/10-8/11 spreadsheet the columns are NOT marked "preliminary" nor is there any other indication the data are prelim...

Gerald F.S. Hiatt, Ph.D.
Senior Regional Toxicologist
U.S. EPA, Region 9
415-972-3064
hiatt.gerald@epa.gov

Please be advised I have only limited ability to use email when not in the office (e.g., on travel) so please be patient with any delays in communication

From: Blumenfeld, Jared
Sent: Friday, August 14, 2015 8:06 PM
To: Tenley, Clancy
Cc: Harrison, Melissa; Strauss, Alexis; Hiatt, Gerald; Kao, Jessica; Manzanilla, Enrique; Allen, HarryL; Calanog, Steve; Wise, Robert
Subject: Re: Revised statement

Please tell me this is not happening! After an entire day of work we are now saying that the 8/9 data is not validated. This is not acceptable. We need to get this out tonight. That was our commitment to the Navajo President. Please bring in Area Commander David Ostrander.

Sent from my iPhone

On Aug 14, 2015, at 7:59 PM, Tenley, Clancy <Tenley.Clancy@epa.gov> wrote:

Christine Wagner here just informed us she does not have approval for the data from the 9th. She got the Region 6 approval for 9/10 mixed up with ours. Dana Tulis just told us they do not have anyone available for approval tonight. Dana says it has to be tomorrow.

We need to send the data for the 9th to Christine Wagner.

From: Harrison, Melissa
Sent: Friday, August 14, 2015 7:46 PM
To: Tenley, Clancy; Blumenfeld, Jared
Cc: Strauss, Alexis; Hiatt, Gerald; Kao, Jessica; Manzanilla, Enrique; Allen, HarryL
Subject: Re: Revised statement

Thanks, I'll send now. But, previously we have not included EPA before risk-screening levels. I recommend remaining consistent.

From: Tenley, Clancy
Sent: Friday, August 14, 2015 10:44 PM
To: Blumenfeld, Jared

Cc: Strauss, Alexis; Hiatt, Gerald; Kao, Jessica; Manzanilla, Enrique; Allen, HarryL; Harrison, Melissa
Subject: Re: Revised statement

"EPA" added, below. Melissa will send now.

From: Blumenfeld, Jared
Sent: Friday, August 14, 2015 7:37 PM
To: Tenley, Clancy
Cc: Strauss, Alexis; Hiatt, Gerald; Kao, Jessica; Manzanilla, Enrique; Allen, HarryL; Harrison, Melissa
Subject: Re: Revised statement

Please add "EPA" before "risk screening levels". I want it to go out tonight.

Sent from my iPhone

On Aug 14, 2015, at 7:33 PM, Tenley, Clancy <Tenley.Clancy@epa.gov> wrote:

Ok. That change made below. Ready to submit to HQs? Are we ok with release at 7:00 a.m. tomorrow rather than tonight, since it is 10:30 in DC?

From: Blumenfeld, Jared
Sent: Friday, August 14, 2015 7:25 PM
To: Tenley, Clancy
Cc: Strauss, Alexis; Hiatt, Gerald; Kao, Jessica; Manzanilla, Enrique; Allen, HarryL; Harrison, Melissa
Subject: Re: Revised statement

Yes only 7,8 and 9 only. According to team this is the only "validated" data. Language looks. Would use "segment" rather than "leg". Also I would say that "additional testing" instead of "additional review".

Sent from my iPhone

On Aug 14, 2015, at 7:19 PM, Tenley, Clancy <Tenley.Clancy@epa.gov> wrote:

Melissa put the information you provided in the required format. Take a look. To confirm, we are only releasing four stations over three days? We will need to change the tables.

From: Harrison, Melissa
Sent: Friday, August 14, 2015 7:11 PM
To: Tenley, Clancy
Subject: Re: Revised statement

Shiprock, New Mexico - August 14, 2015: Today, EPA has released additional water quality data from Aug. 7 to Aug. 9, 2015 on the San Juan River between Farmington and Shiprock, New Mexico. The August 7 data was collected for baseline purposes to understand river conditions at the Hogback monitoring location, prior to the impact of the upstream contaminants from the Gold King Mine release.

To assess the impacts of the release at the Gold King Mine, water quality samples were collected at four locations for 24 metals. Each surface water sample was analyzed for metals including arsenic, cadmium, lead, mercury, aluminum, cobalt and others.

The validated results indicate the EPA risk-screening level of recreational use is being met for all metals for the length of the river between Farmington and Shiprock, with the exception of lead on August 8. However, lead dropped below risk-screening levels on August 9.

Due to the highly variable conditions typical of this segment of the river, additional testing will be conducted, and we will work closely with the Navajo Nation EPA on assessing drinking water, agriculture, livestock, and other critical water needs.

From: Tenley, Clancy
Sent: Friday, August 14, 2015 10:00 PM
To: Harrison, Melissa
Subject: Fw: Revised statement

From: Strauss, Alexis
Sent: Friday, August 14, 2015 6:59 PM
To: Blumenfeld, Jared
Cc: Keener, Bill; Kao, Jessica; Manzanilla, Enrique; Allen, HarryL; Hiatt, Gerald; ghiattphd@outlook.com; Tenley, Clancy; Quast, Sylvia; Minor, Dustin; Woo, Nancy; Montgomery, Michael
Subject: RE: Revised statement

Gerry indicates at Hogback lead at 250 micrograms/liter on the 8th, risk screening level 200 micrograms/liter on the 8th, thus amended below...see bold

From: Strauss, Alexis
Sent: Friday, August 14, 2015 6:48 PM
To: Blumenfeld, Jared
Cc: Keener, Bill; Jessica Kao (Kao.Jessica@epa.gov); Manzanilla, Enrique; Allen, HarryL; Hiatt, Gerald; 'ghiattphd@outlook.com'; Tenley, Clancy; Sylvia Quast (Quast.Sylvia@epa.gov); Minor, Dustin; Woo, Nancy; Montgomery, Michael; Strauss, Alexis
Subject: Revised statement

Team: for purposes of this interpretative statement to go out today, we have narrowed our focus to just the four stations, and solely the fully validated data of Aug 7 to 9. Gerry, please confirm the accuracy of what we have drafted – please reply asap...in particular, please confirm that for Aug 7, 8 and 9 at the four stations (SJLP, SJFP, SJHP and SJSR) we have no metals exceedances...or correct this.

Next steps: Tuesday we can have validated data from the Aug 10, 11 and 12 analyses and draw conclusions.

Navajo Nation water quality data updated

Shiprock, NM – To assess water quality from the Gold King Mine spill to the Animas River, EPA collected samples at four locations along the Navajo Nation portion of the San Juan River between Farmington and Shiprock from August 7 to 9, 2015. Metals include arsenic, cadmium, lead, mercury, aluminum, cobalt and others. The validated results indicate the risk-screening level of recreational use is being met for all metals for the length of the river between Farmington and Shiprock, **with a single exception: on August 8, lead levels were measured at 250 micrograms per liter, compared with the risk screening level of 200 micrograms per liter**. August 7 data was collected for baseline purposes to understand river conditions at the Hogback monitoring location, prior to the impact of the upstream contaminants from the Gold King Mine release.

EPA continues to monitor, analyze, and share data for the San Juan River in Navajo Nation as it becomes available. We will work closely with the Navajo Nation EPA on assessing drinking water, agriculture, livestock and other critical water needs.

Jared: next steps – Gerry Hiatt will continue to refine the data analysis this weekend with input from Water Division's Janet Hashimoto, feeding this to Harry Allen and Enrique. Enrique will task Ned Black with doing same for the agricultural risk-screening level data. Gerry will send tabular data he has to the team. Enrique notes via Clancy the validated data will be uploaded by the JIC in due course, so this (above) is the sole interpretive statement thus far, and begs the NN interest in agricultural uses of the water. **Please ensure on the Aug 7,8 and 9 fully validated data is the only data uploaded to the JIC today. Thanks all.**